

CT-216

SOPER HOUSE

Willows

c. 1840, late 19th century and
1912

Private

Although the buildings on this property are in various stages of ruin, they have an important story to tell. The frame house was built in three stages. Circa 1840, a one-story house, composed of a single parlor adjoining a wide hall containing an elegant stair, was built. Later in the 19th century two rooms were added to the other side of the stair hall. In 1912, Owen Soper raised the whole building to two stories and added a two-story kitchen section to the rear, porches to the front and back, two bay-window towers to the front, and late Victorian trim to the interior and exterior. Three gables, two over the towers and one in the center, intersect the roof on the main facade. These gables are decorated with blocks and shingles, painted brown. The rest of the house is green with white trim.

Buildings complementing the house include two log structures (one an outside kitchen) a meathouse, chicken coop, milk house, ice house, corn horse, hog pen, and tenant house. A tobacco barn with attached stable is still in fair condition. The adjacent Willows store and post office, built in 1905, is in near-ruin.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Soper House (Willows) and Outbuildings
AND/OR COMMON**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

off Bayside Road

CITY, TOWN

Willows

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland3
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Calvert**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Owen Soper

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Dalrymple Road

CITY, TOWN

Sunderland P.O.

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CT-216

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

What was once a grassy well-kept lawn is woods now and the ruins of the outbuildings are difficult to see for the trees and vines which engulf them. The house has been empty for years and vandals have destroyed the interior. The property once contained many outbuildings including a kitchen, meathouse, chicken coop, milkhouse, ice house, tobacco barns, carriage house, stables, cornhouse and hogpen, store and tenant house. Some of these remain, all but the tobacco barn are in ruins.

The house on the Soper farm, or Willows, is five bays wide, $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories high and is two bays deep with various projections and wings. In the front for instance, two story semi-hexagonal projections result in the entrance being somewhat recessed. A porch runs the entire length of the building and a five gable roof (three in the front) caps the upper story. The gables are decorated with square and round blocks and deep cornices.

The whole building is covered with horizontal clapboard and for some-time has been painted green with brown and white trim. The bay projections and decorations are Victorian in character and are a result of a renovation made by Mr. Owen Soper c. 1912 to an older house. His daughter describes the building prior to its Victorianized appearance as "an old English house with dormers".

The inside has been stripped by vandals but it too was once rich with molding, corner blocks etc. Parlors flank either side of an entrance hall which contained a wide and rather grand stairs. The kitchen was in the rear (N).

Building B. That the house probably pre-dates its late Victorian appearance is further suggested by examination of the outbuildings behind it, especially building B. It is in ruins. Verbal history, the presence of a fireplace, its location directly behind the main house and the remains of shelves etc. indicate that this was an exterior kitchen. This building was unique in its construction. Perfectly squared logs are dovetailed on the ends so that they fit neatly together to form thick sturdy walls. These walls support an A-frame gable-end roof with horizontal clapboards nailed onto the gables. The roof appears to have contained a room; there are ruins of a stairs.

The building measures

Building C. This building is also of log construction and although there is space between the logs, there is no evidence of nogging. It is partially clad with vertical wooden siding. There is horizontal siding in the gables.

The logs in this building are not squared or dovetailed but they are notched so that the ends overlap and support each other. According to Mrs. Wilburne, this building was used as a

Mrs. Wilburne's father built the store around 1905. This is a rather typical Victorian structure, three bays wide and one deep, A-frame

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mrs. Ruth Soper Wilburne is eighty-two years old and has a good memory. She was raised in the big house at Willows and was the Post Mistress in her father's store there for almost thirty years. Her recollections, papers and photographs are an invaluable source for learning what Willows was like in the early 20th Century when her father owned the 280 acres farm there.

An interview with Mrs. Wilburne on December 1, 1976 produced the information that both this house and the Talbott house on Christiana Parran and Bayside Roads were originally "1½ story structures". This house was larger with eleven rooms in it, and it was "four bays wide." Mrs. Wilburne compares the houses in appearance to Maidstone saying that all three were "quite similar".

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

G-216

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY Description and significance statements: Wayne Nield.

NAME / TITLE

Form compiled by:

March 1978

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

757-2815

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

roof with gables on the ends and middle of the front. The center gable contains a small window.

The entrance is on the first floor and is in the center of the building. There are double doors (constructed of diagonal tongue and groove) with shuttered windows on either side (shutters are also diagonal tongue and groove. A porch covers the entire front of the first floor.)

Horizontal clapboards covered the exterior and like the main house, this building was decorated with bright colors, red with green and yellow trim.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-016
MAGI #0502165435

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VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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COUNTY

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5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
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STREET & NUMBER

Main Street (Maryland Route 765)

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

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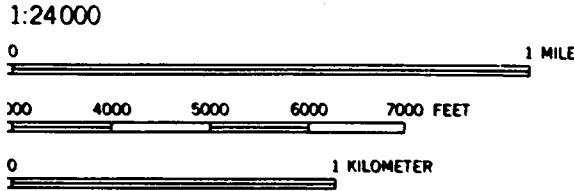
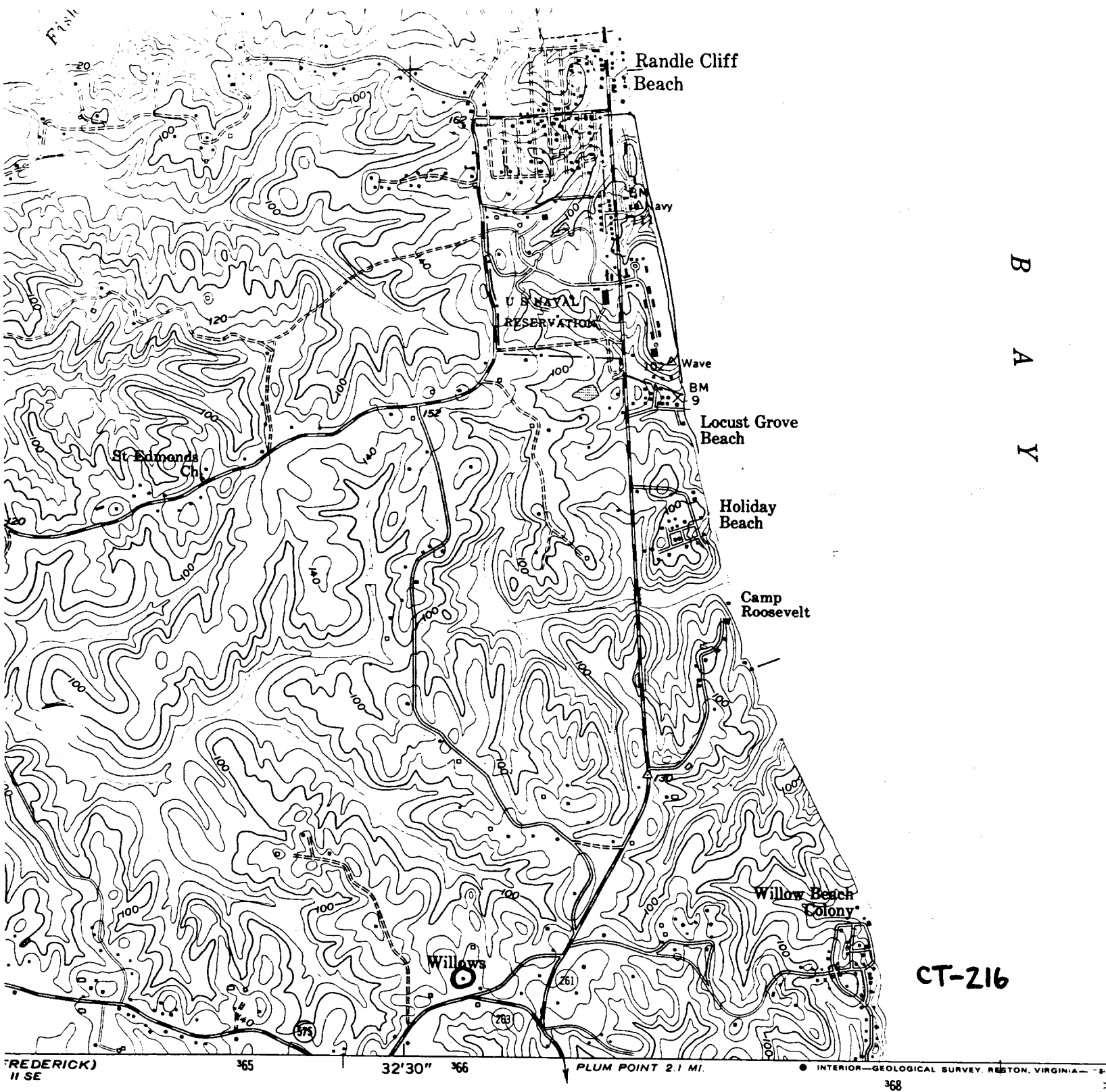
C-610

Mrs. Wilburne's father built the store around 1905. This is a rather typical Victorian structure, three bays wide and one deep, A-frame roof with gables on the ends and middle of the front. The center gable contains a small window.

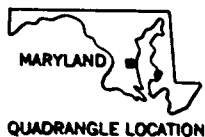
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ERYAL FEET
 (TIC) "M OF 1929
 FEET. "A IS MEAN LOW WATER
 HE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
 PROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 1 FOOT AT CHESAPEAKE BEACH



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
 photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This
 information not field checked. Map edited 1979

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty _____ Light-duty _____
 Medium-duty _____ Unimproved _____
 U. S. Route State Route

NORTH BEACH

N3837.5—W7630

1953

PHOTOREVISED
 AMS 5661 II NE-SERIE

ONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



CT-216
Soper House
S

M. Stinson 1978



CT-216

Soper House

E

M. Stinson 1978



CT-216

Soper House
barn & corn crib
S

M. Stinson 1978



top

CT-216

Soper House
barn shed eaves
S

M. Stinson 1978